

bargains for the library. In June 1842 he purchased part of the catalogue of books in New York City at about ten to twenty percent less cost than they could be obtained in any other way. He purchased twenty-one volumes of the works of British poets, elegantly bound, for half the amount the original owner had paid. He informed Governor Morehead that he was going to Boston to attempt to "do better" on the remainder of the catalogue. A delay, according to Cogswell, would be preferable to paying higher prices. In August 1843 he sent to Governor Morehead an invoice for books purchased in London for \$399.30. Three months later he interpreted his actions in England, saying that "...my wish was to be sure that the Library would be furnished with good books & as at low rates as possible & to know that I have succeeded will be sufficient compensation to me." By this time Cogswell had spent \$3,522.59 for books.⁸¹

Cogswell made the majority of his purchases during the administration of Governor Morehead. However, he continued as agent for the state library during the administration of William Alexander Graham. Under Graham's supervision Cogswell purchased books of outstanding quality.

At some point before September 1845 the library board—either at the suggestion of Cogswell or on its own initiative—requested the intrepid agent to procure a copy of John James Audubon's *Birds of America*, a collection of 435 hand-colored plates in four volumes, published between 1827 and 1838. On